Hayakawa Publishing 70th Anniversary Comic Anthology [Sci-Fi] Edition

早川書房創立70周年記念コミックアンソロジー★SF篇

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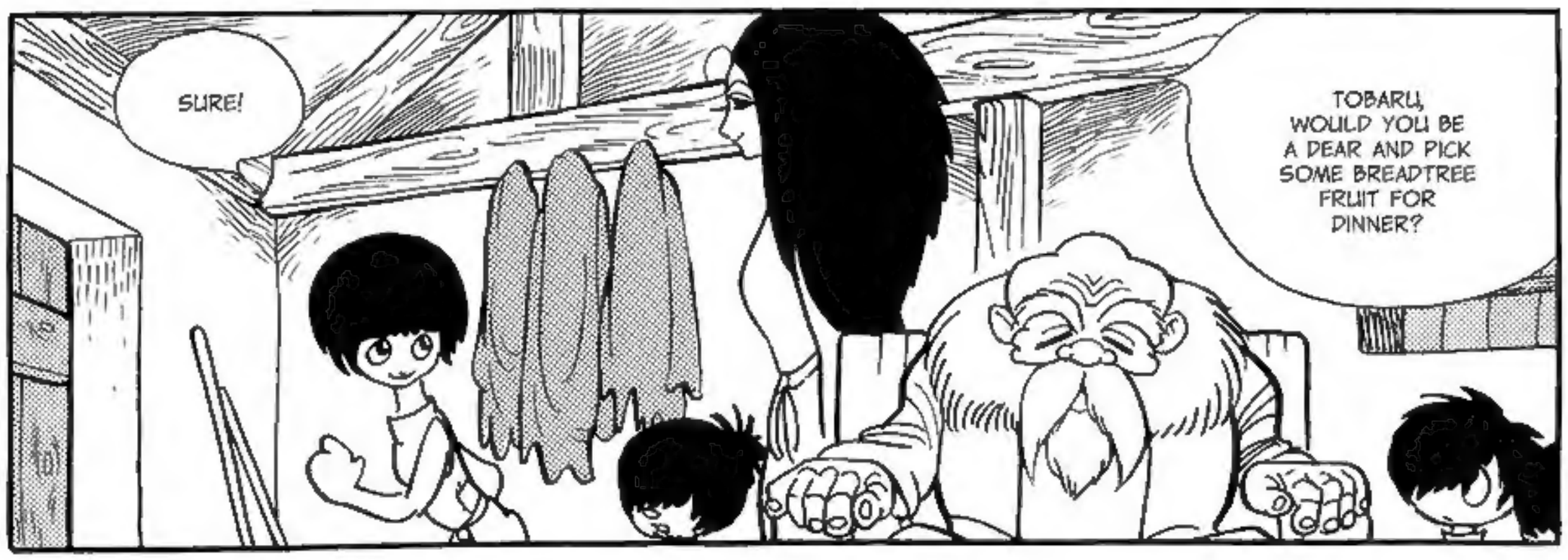
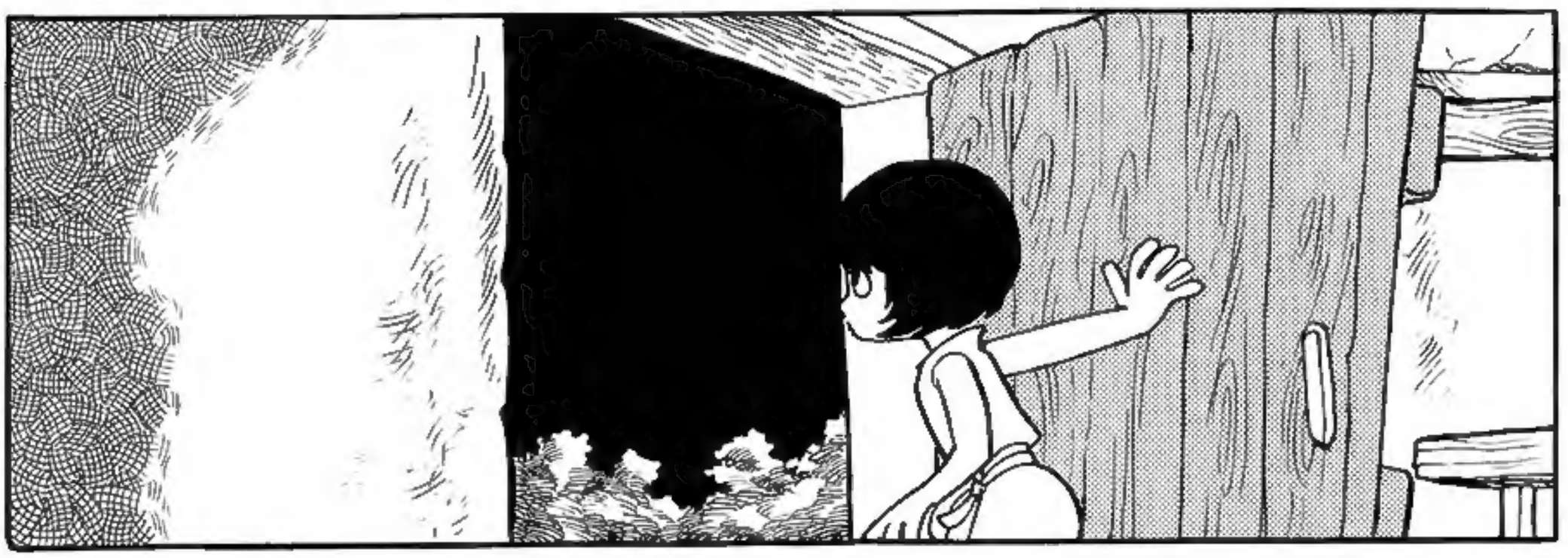
早川書房

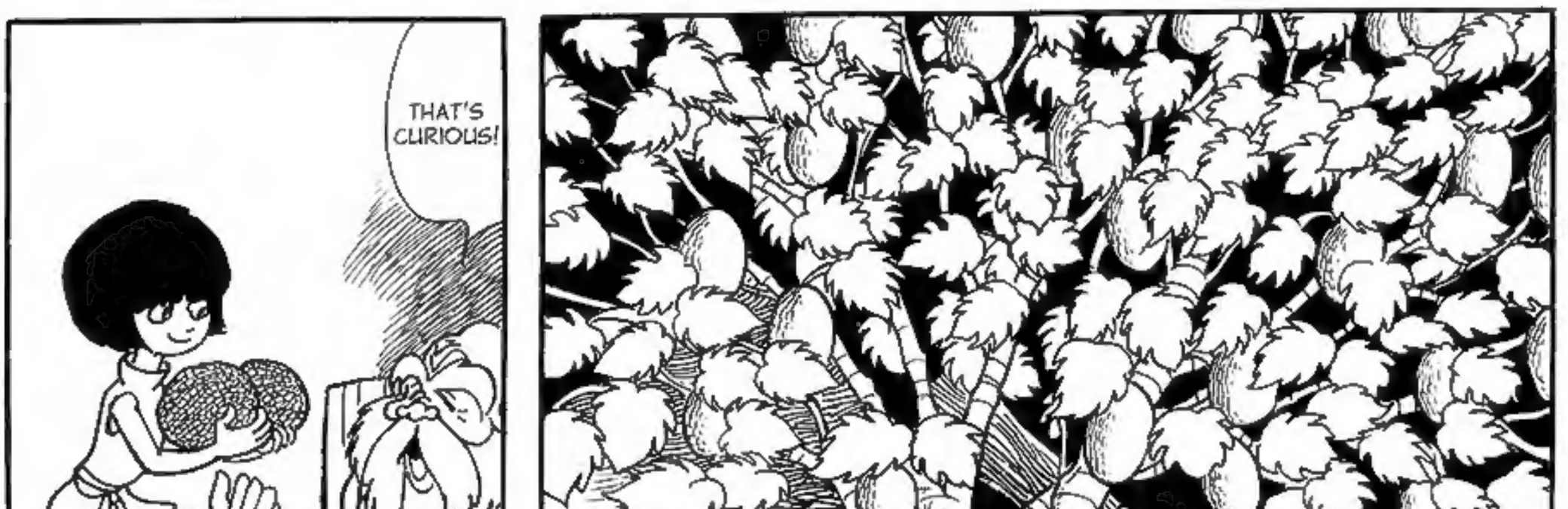
SPECIAL PROJECT: SF FANTASY COMIC

RIPE PLANET

OSAMU TEZUKA


SURE!
TOBARU, WOULD YOU BE A DEAR AND PICK SOME BREADTREE FRUIT FOR DINNER?




THAT'S CURIOUS!
WITH FRUIT THIS BIG, THE OTHER TREES ARE SURE TO PRODUCE A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST AS WELL.
IT APPEARS THAT THIS YEAR WAS QUITE EXTRA-ORDINARY.

GRANDPA SAYS HE HAS SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL US, SO WE SHOULD HURRY AND EAT.

OH, THAT THING HE MENTIONED?

WHAT'S GOING ON? DINNER IS RIDICULOUSLY EARLY TODAY.

AMEN.

"BY EVERY BEAST WILL I REQUIRE IT, AND BY THE HAND OF MAN; BY THE HAND OF EVERY MAN'S BROTHER WILL I REQUIRE THE LIFE OF MAN."

"AND SURELY THE BLOOD OF YOUR LIVES WILL I REQUIRE"...

UMM, WHAT'S "GOD'S VOICE?"

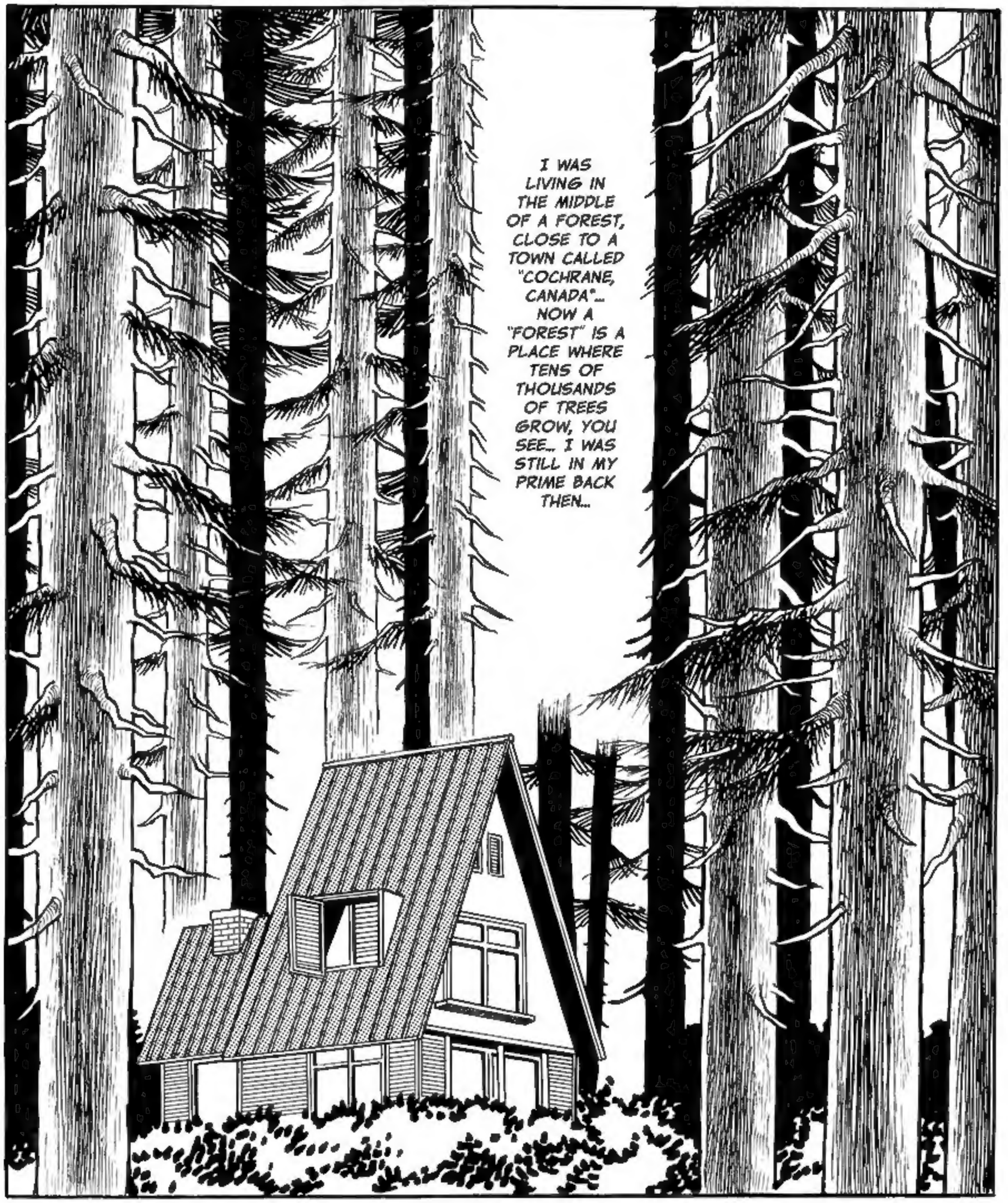
NOW, ALL OF YOU, LISTEN WELL... I HAVE FINALLY HEARD GOD'S VOICE AGAIN.

PLEASE START FROM THE BEGINNING, GRANDPA.

THE KIDS DON'T REALLY KNOW ABOUT ALL THAT STUFF.

GRANDPA HAS BEEN WAITING TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE FOR 50 YEARS.

IT WAS TOWARDS THE END OF THE PREVIOUS CENTURY, 1980... WHEN I MET GOD.
...IT WAS ABOUT 50 YEARS AGO... RIGHT...


I WAS LIVING IN THE MIDDLE OF A FOREST, CLOSE TO A TOWN CALLED "COCHRANE, CANADA"... NOW A "FOREST" IS A PLACE WHERE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF TREES GROW, YOU SEE... I WAS STILL IN MY PRIME BACK THEN...

MY FAVORITE PASTIME WAS GOING FISHING EVERY SUNDAY...

I WAS IN THE LUMBER BUSINESS... AND WELL, BUSINESS WAS SWELL.

WELL, ONE DAY... AT MY FISHING SPOT...

I HAD MY VERY OWN FISHING SPOT... I USED TO CATCH THESE HUGE TROUT... NOW, A "TROUT" IS A... WELL, DOESN'T MATTER ANY-WAY.

IF I WERE TANIOKA YASUJI, MY NOSE WOULD PROBABLY BLEED LIKE THIS.

NOW THAT'S A FINE LADY.

A WOMAN WASHED UP.

PLEASE... HELP...

SHE'S HALF DEAD... THIS IS BAD.

OF COURSE, SINCE MANGA IS ONLY PRINTED IN BLACK AND WHITE IN THIS ERA!

THE WOMAN WAS EXACTLY THE SAME COLOR FROM HEAD TO TOE.

YOU'RE NOT FROM AROUND HERE, ARE YOU, MISSY?

I CAN GET TREATMENT AT MY SHIP...

YOU NEED MEDICAL ATTENTION ASAP, MISSY... YOU'LL DIE AT THIS RATE.

MY SHIP IS UPSTREAM FROM HERE... PLEASE... CARRY ME THERE...

YEAH, PRETTY OUT THERE.

I LOOK... STRANGE, DON'T I?

ALRIGHTY. THEY'RE NOT VERY KIND TO STRANGERS, ANYWAY. EVEN IF I TOOK YOU THERE, THEY MIGHT NOT WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU.

DON'T TAKE ME TO THE VILLAGE...

AS I WAS IN THE PROCESS OF TAKING HUMAN FORM, I DROSSBITTED.

ARE YOU SURE? THERE'S ONLY RIVER MIST DRIFTING AROUND OVER THERE...

THANK YOU.. PLEASE PUT ME DOWN OVER THERE.

I'M GOING TO TELL YOU THIS SECRET.

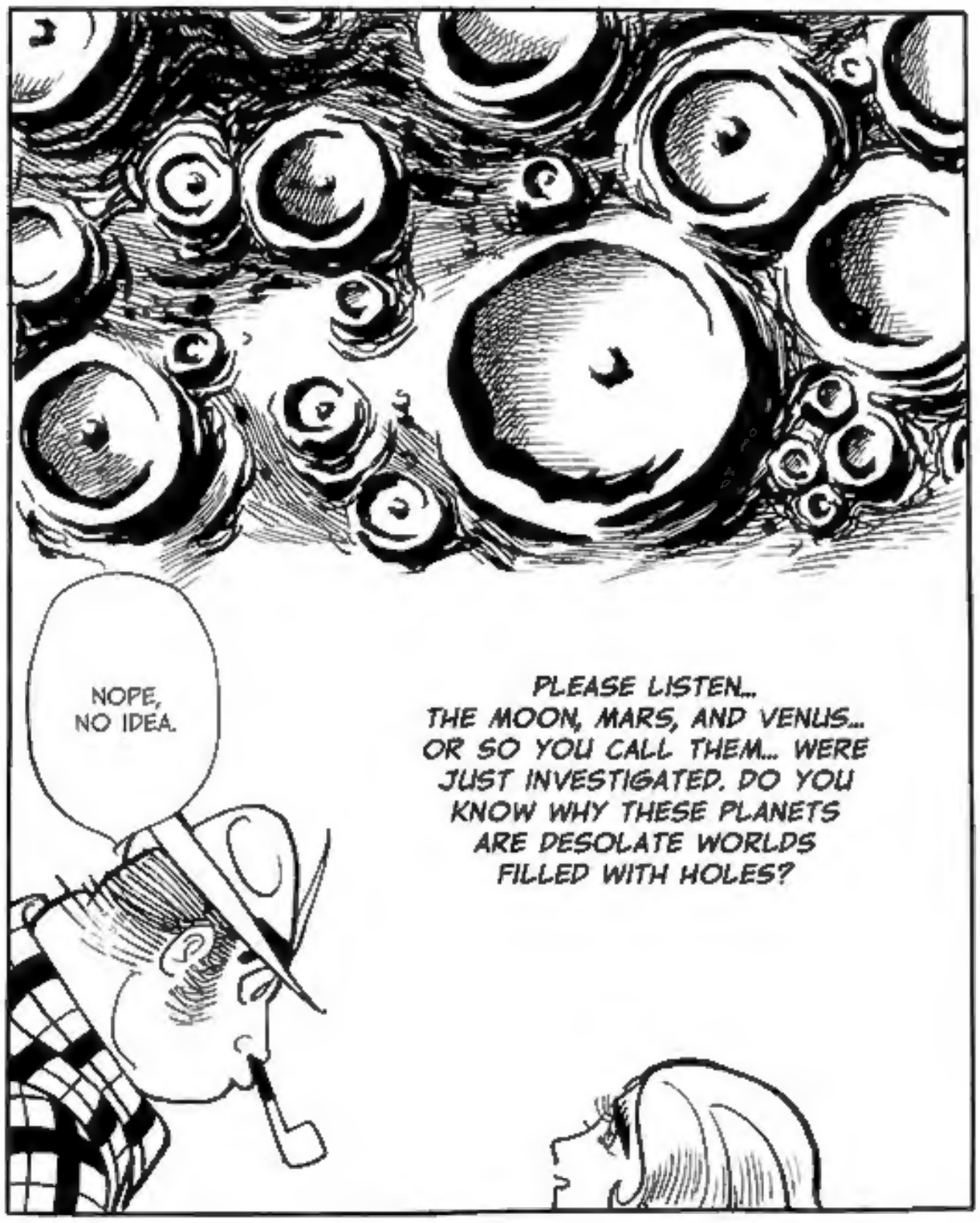
YOU'RE A VERY KIND PERSON... I CAN'T REALLY DO ANYTHING IN RETURN, BUT...

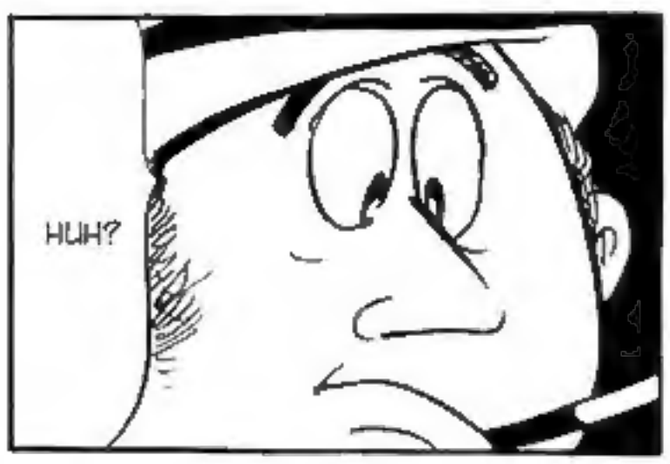
GIMME A BREAK!

MOVE TO A DESOLATE LAND WITH NO TREES, GRASS, OR HOUSES...

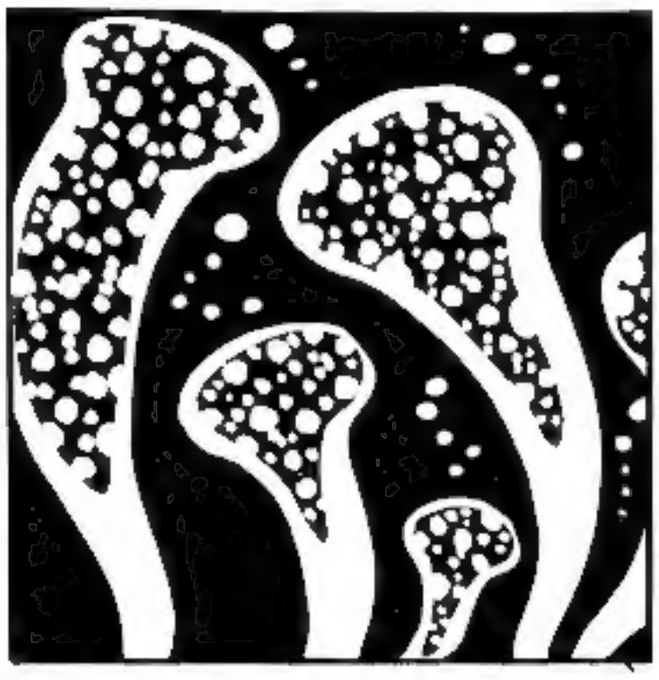
YOU SHOULD TRY TO LEAVE THIS PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

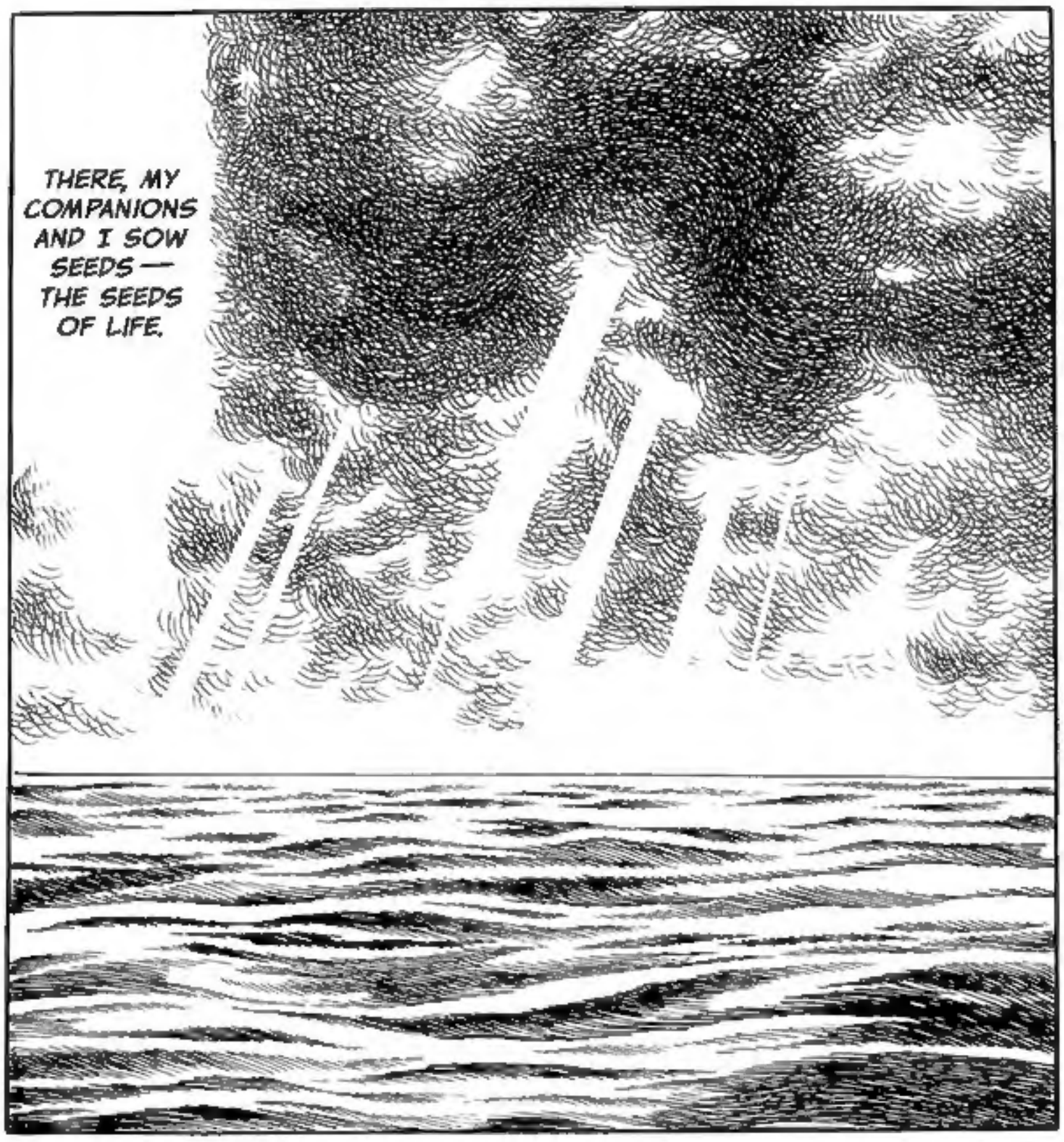
TELL ME WHAT? DO YOU KNOW A GOOD FISHING SPOT OR SOMETHIN'?

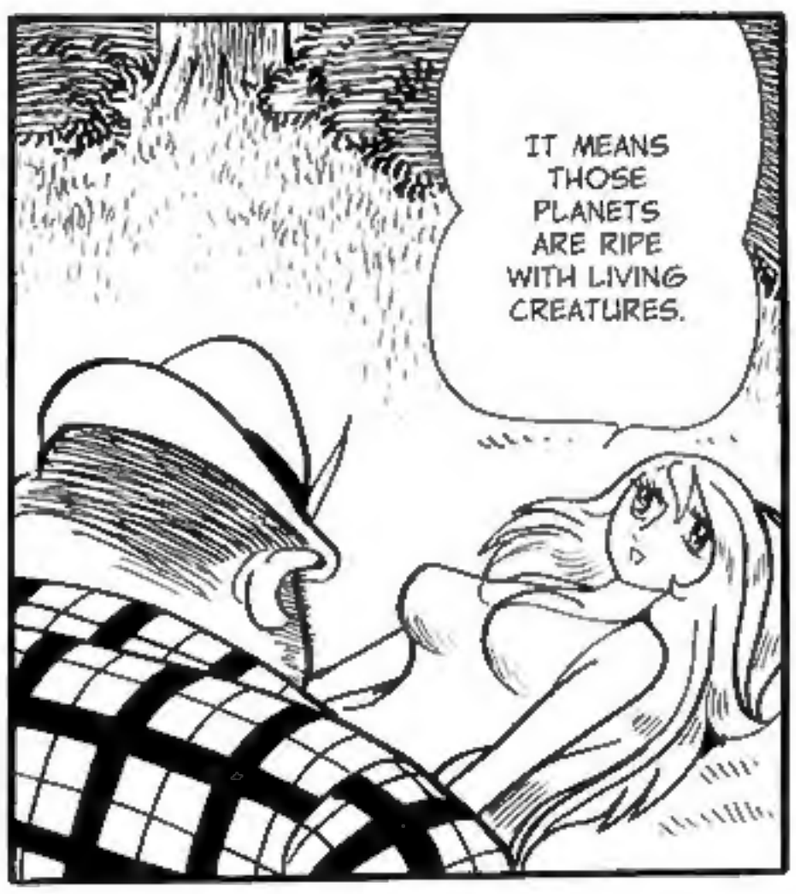

NOPE, NO IDEA.
PLEASE LISTEN... THE MOON, MARS, AND VENUS... OR SO YOU CALL THEM... WERE JUST INVESTIGATED. DO YOU KNOW WHY THESE PLANETS ARE DESOLATE WORLDS FILLED WITH HOLES?

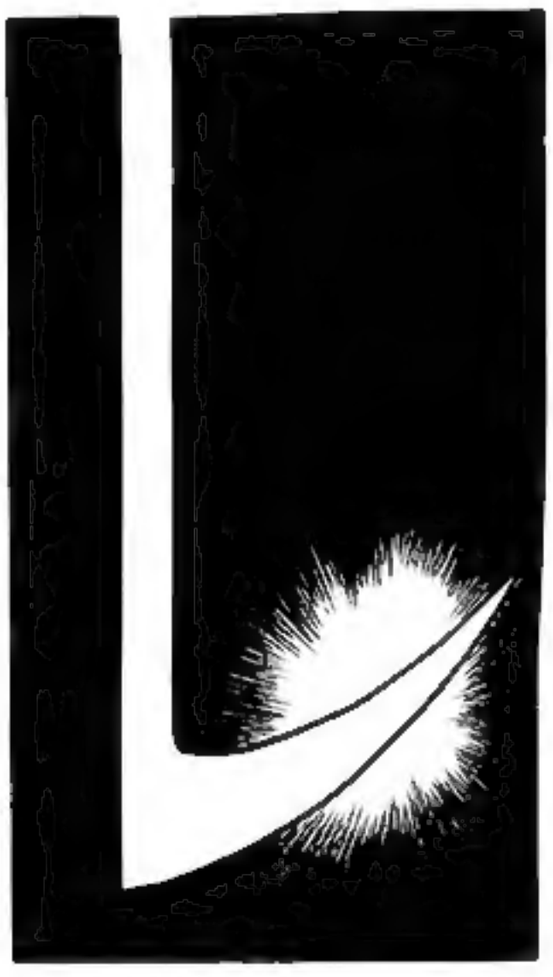


OVER HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF YEARS, THOSE SEEDS CONTINUALLY REPRODUCE AND EVOLVE...





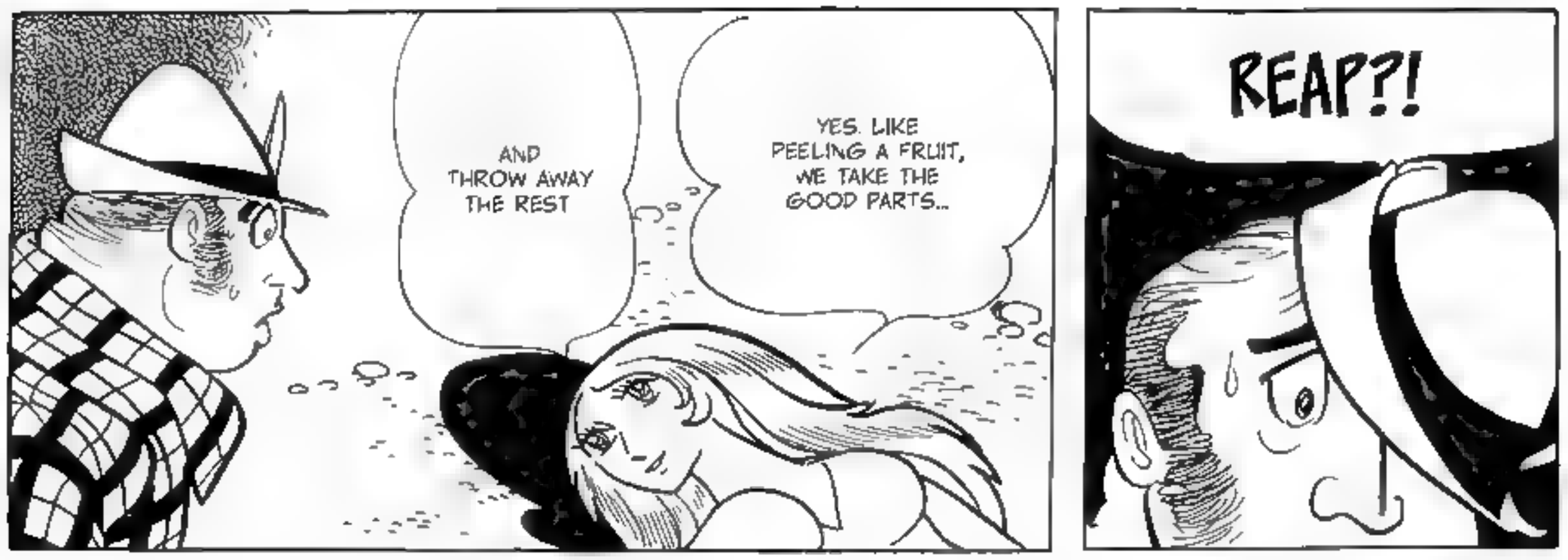


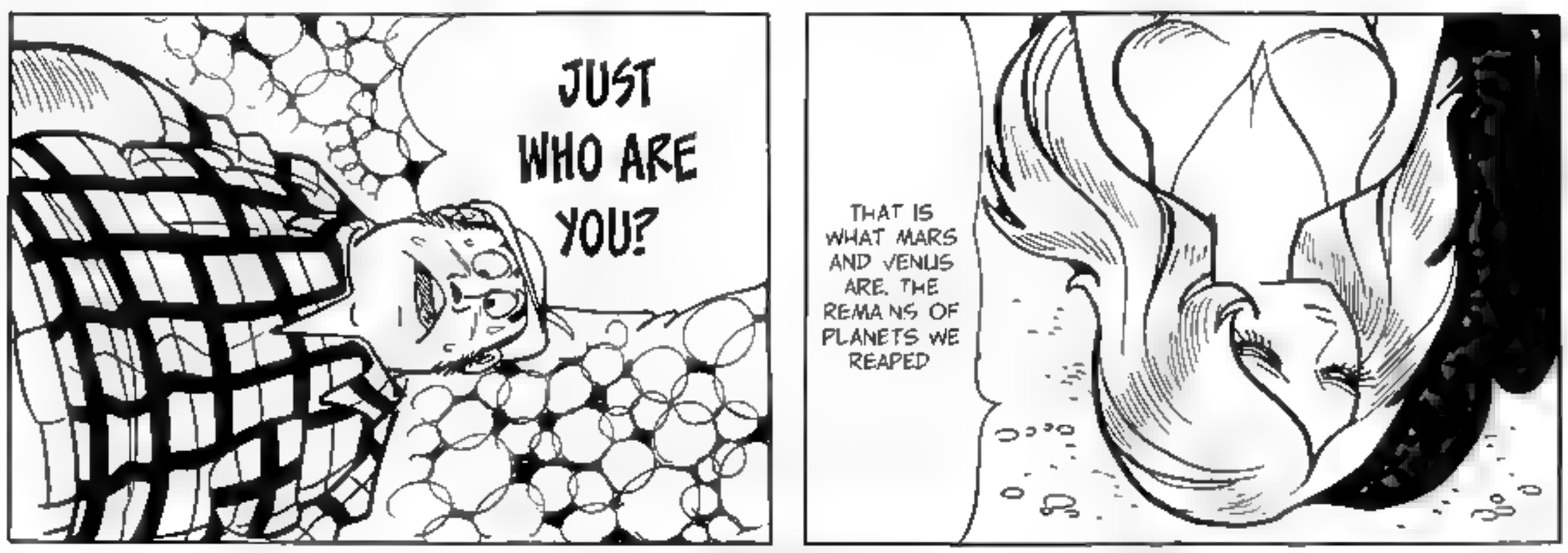


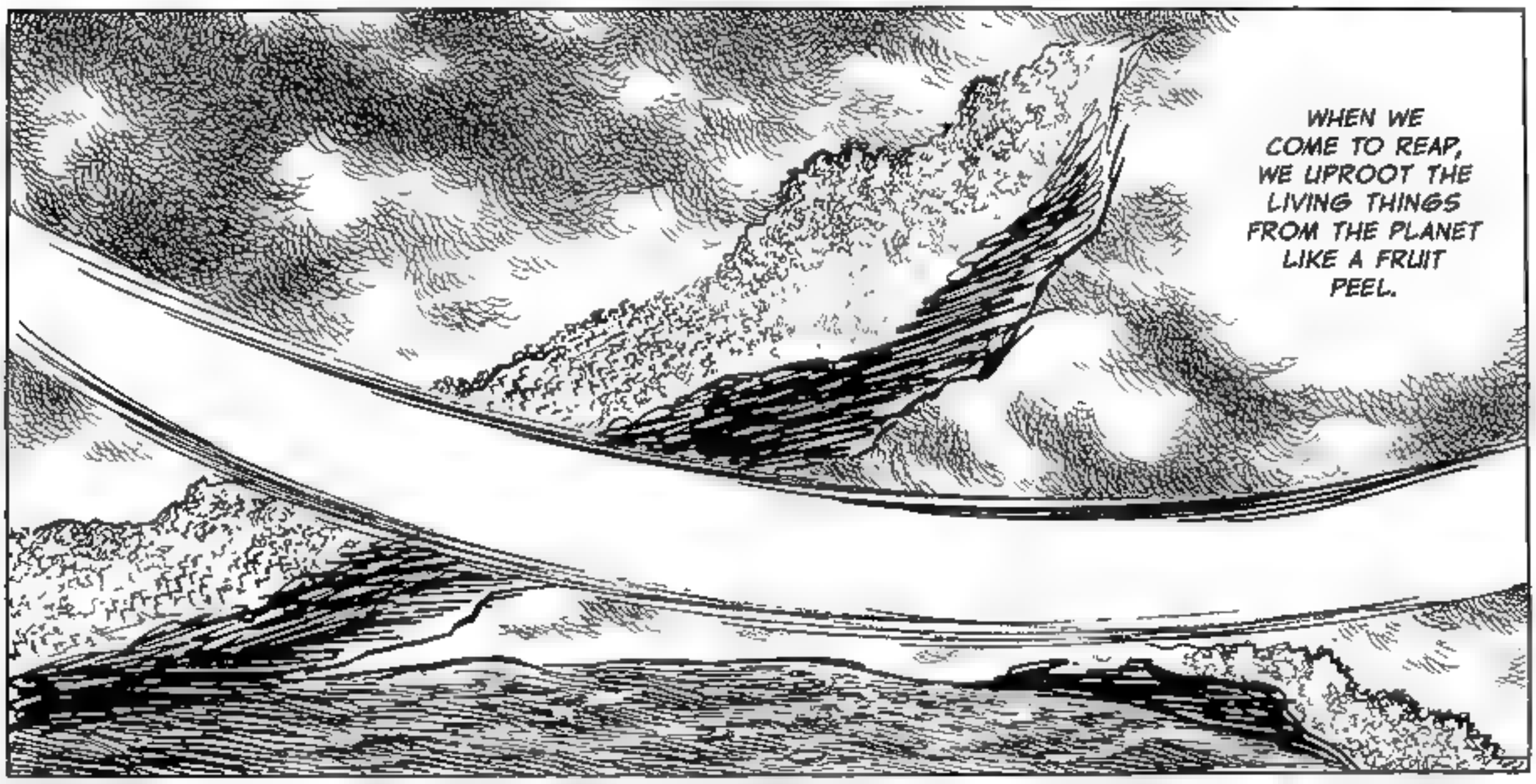
WE COME TO REAP THEM.

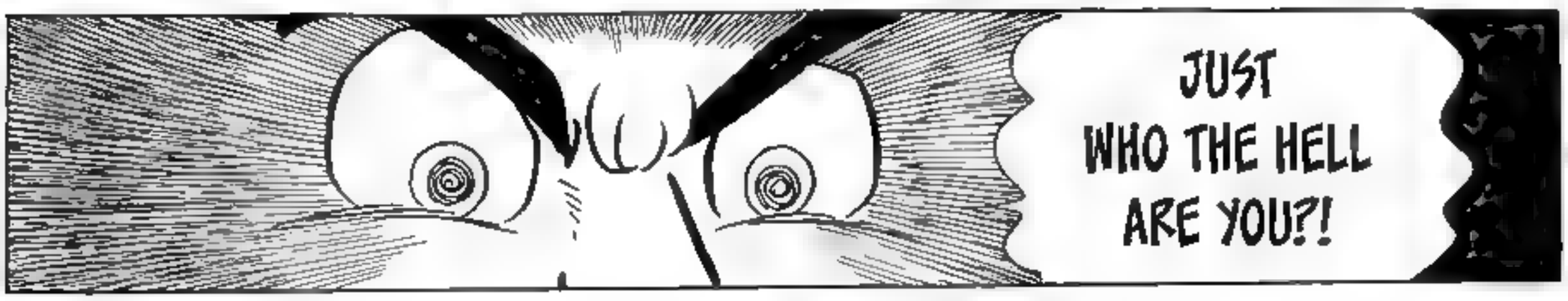
AND WHEN THE TIME COMES...

THEY BECAME ALGAE, GRASS, TREES, FISH, BIRDS, AND BEASTS... WE CALL THOSE STARS "RIPE PLANETS."


AND THROW AWAY THE REST
YES. LIKE PEELING A FRUIT, WE TAKE THE GOOD PARTS...
REAP?!


JUST WHO ARE YOU?
THAT IS WHAT MARS AND VENUS ARE. THE REMA NS OF PLANETS WE REAPED


WHEN WE COME TO REAP, WE UPROOT THE LIVING THINGS FROM THE PLANET LIKE A FRUIT PEEL.


JUST WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!

TAKE SOME FOOD WITH YOU AND GO THERE IMMEDIATELY

I'M TELLING YOU THIS AS A FAVOR TO YOU..

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT.. WHAT NONSENSE.

BUT.. THERE ARE ALSO PORTIONS WE NEGLECT TO PEEL. THOSE ARE THE PLACES WHERE THERE IS ALMOST NOTHING ALIVE.. IF YOU WANT TO LIVE, MOVE TO A PLACE LIKE THAT AND HIDE.. THEN YOU WILL BE SAVED FROM THE REAPING.

A FAVOR? YOU'RE CRAZY YOU HAVE TO BE, OR...

MOVE!

I'LL MAKE SURE TO LET YOU KNOW WHEN IT BEGINS!!

WH- WHEN?!

FAREWELL! DO YOUR BEST TO HURRY! THE REAPING WILL BEGIN SOON..

SHE DIS- APPEARED..

AND THEN, I FOUND THAT THE NORTH OF THE ARAB-AN NEFUD DESERT FIT THE BILL.

SO, I ENDED UP SEARCHING FOR THE MOST DESOLATE LAND IN THIS WORLD

I COULDN'T SHAKE IT OFF AT ALL

I HAD A FEELING THAT THAT WOMAN WAS SOMETHING BEYOND HUMAN.. SOMETHING UNEARTHLY

SO I TOOK MY WIFE AND SOME SAPLINGS AND MOVED... OF COURSE, I BECAME A LAUGHING-STOCK...

I WAS BORN, AND I MARRIED A LOCAL GYPSY'S DAUGHTER..

NOW, T WILL BE 50 YEARS SINCE I CAME HERE.

MY TENSION EASED, AND I BEGAN TO WONDER IF MY EFFORTS WERE FOR NOTH NG..

IT WAS A LONG AND HARD 50 YEARS..

FOR THE MESSAGE ABOUT THE REAPING DAY...

I WAITED..

"TODAY IS REAPING DAY".

I FINALLY RECEIVED THE MESSAGE.

AND SO.. LAST NIGHT..

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US?

SO TODAY IS THE "DAY OF DESTRUCTION?"

IT WAS THAT WOMAN'S VOICE.

THAT'S NOT A GOD! THAT'S A DEMON!

WHAT KIND OF SICK JOKE IS THIS! THIS WORLD IS GOING TO BE HARVESTED BY GOD?!

BUT THEY'RE A FORCE GREATER THAN MAN..

WE'LL PROBABLY BE FINE.. SINCE SHE GUARANTEED IT, BACK THEN..

ARE WE GOING TO DIE, TOO?

WILL THEY TAKE OUR BREADFRUIT TREE, TOO?!

AND OUR POTATO FIELD?!

NO!!! PLEASE NO!!

I JUST HEARD GOD'S VOICE AGAIN!!!

WAIT!!!

YES!

THE WORLD IS SAVED!!!

WE WILL LEAVE,

AND LEAVE THE PLANET AS IT IS.

WHY?

WHY?

HUH... YOU SAY THE REAPING IS CANCELLED?!

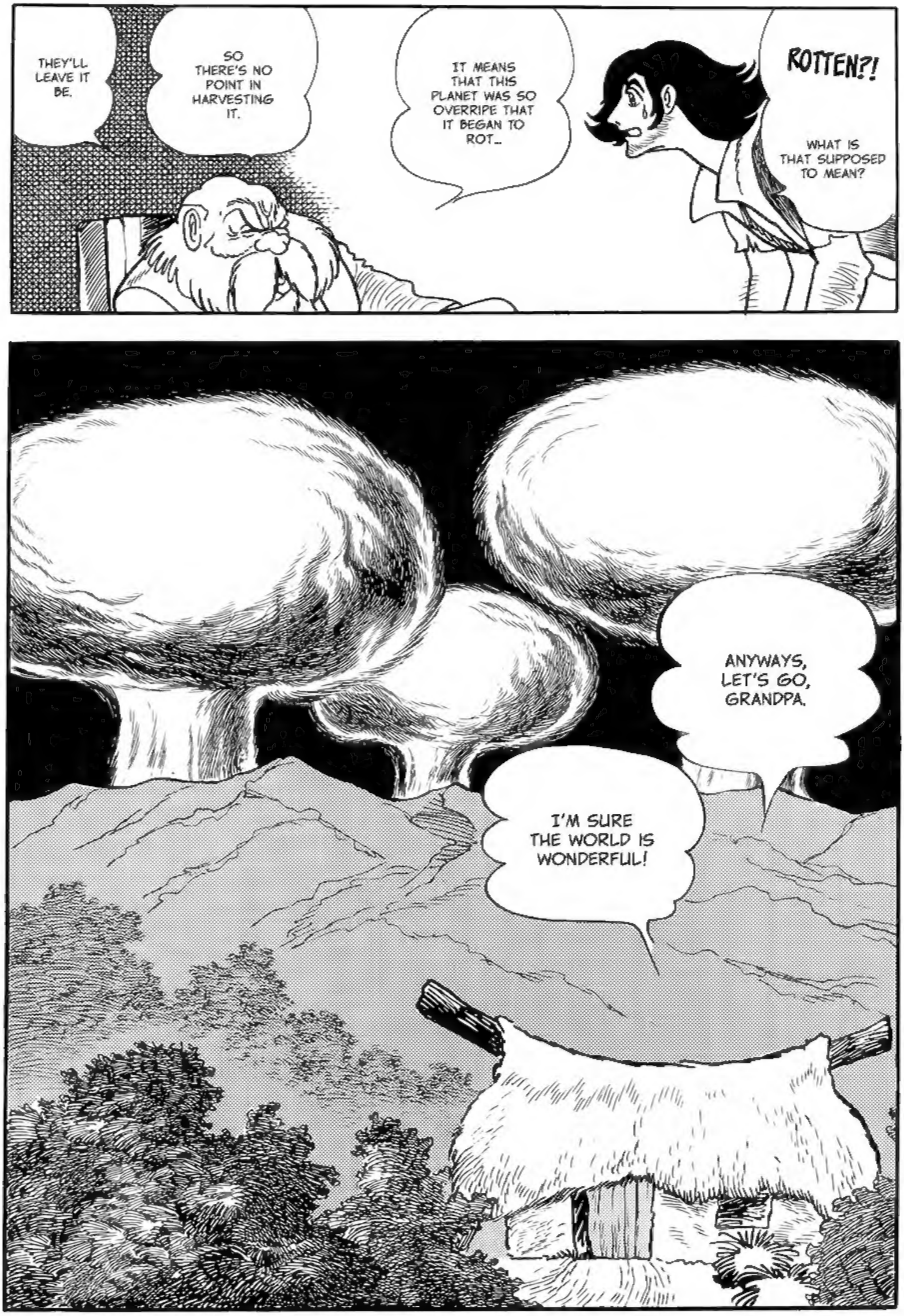
REALLY?!

SHE SAYS... THIS PLANET WAS ALREADY ROTTEN...

ME TOO! I WANT TO SEE THE WORLD!

GRANDPA!!! I WANT TO VISIT YOUR HOMETOWN, THIS "CANADA" PLACE!

LET'S GO! EVEN TOMORROW SOUNDS GREAT!


THEY'LL LEAVE IT BE.
SO THERE'S NO POINT IN HARVESTING IT.
IT MEANS THAT THIS PLANET WAS SO OVERRIPE THAT IT BEGAN TO ROT...
ROTTEN?!
WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
ANYWAYS, LET'S GO, GRANDPA.
I'M SURE THE WORLD IS WONDERFUL!

RIPE PLANET (END)

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presents

The Ripe Planet
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